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IRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ISSUES REPORTS; WELCOMES PUBLIC COMMENTS ON RECOMMENDATIONS

WASHINGTON – Reports by the Internal Revenue Service's Advisory Committee on Tax Exempt and Government Entities (ACT) are now posted on the agency's Web site and available for public comment.

The 18-member ACT, which advises the IRS's Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division (TE/GE) on operational policies and procedures, issued a series of recommendations at its first public meeting June 21, 2002. Its recommendations included making better use of the Web site to assist charities, development of a formal Indian tribal consultation process and enhancements to voluntary correction programs.

The ACT subcommittees presented reports on five projects:

- Life cycle of a public charity;
- TE/GE external communication and outreach;
- Indian tribal consultation process;
- Voluntary correction programs;
- Employee plans small business access and compliance.

"We want the public to comment on our recommendations for the purpose of helping TE/GE focus its resources for the benefit of its customers," said Donald J. Segal, ACT chairman. "We believe the recent reorganization of the IRS into four operating units aligned with customer characteristics will benefit all IRS customers – and none more so than those of TE/GE. Its customers generally are not subject to tax but must comply with specialized and highly complex provisions of tax law."

Noting the depth of experience on the panel, Segal said, "The diversity of experience of the ACT members allowed us to develop recommendations on a combination of subject-matter specific topics."

TE/GE oversees tax issues involving exempt organizations such as charities; federal, state, local and tribal governments; employee retirement plans and tax-exempt bonds.

The project reports can be found at www.irs.gov on either the "Charities & Non-Profits," "Retirement Plans," or "Government Entities" pages. Anyone wishing to comment on the reports can write to:

Internal Revenue Service
Tax Exempt/Government Entities Division
1111 Constitution Avenue, NW, T:CL-Penn Bldg
Washington, DC. 20224
or e-mail: tege.act@irs.gov

The ACT panel includes external stakeholders and representatives who deal with employee retirement plans, tax-exempt organizations, tax-exempt bonds and federal, state, local and Indian tribal governments. ACT members are appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury and generally serve two-year terms.

